

In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 21-2111V

UNPUBLISHED

LUZ AURORA VARGAS DE
ECHAVARRIA,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Chief Special Master Corcoran

Filed: June 14, 2023

Special Processing Unit (SPU);
Ruling on Entitlement; Concession;
Table Injury; Influenza (Flu) Vaccine;
Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS)

Paul Adrian Green, Law Office of Paul Green, Pasadena, CA, for Petitioner.

Bridget Corridon, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for Respondent.

RULING ON ENTITLEMENT¹

On October 29, 2021, Luz Aurora Vargas de Echavarria filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10, *et seq.*² (the “Vaccine Act”). Petitioner alleges that she suffered Guillain Barre Syndrome (GBS) resulting from adverse effects of an influenza (flu) vaccination received on October 23, 2020. Petition at 1. Petitioner further alleges that the vaccination was administered within the United States, her GBS resulted in a hospital admission, surgery, and persisted for more than six months, and neither she, nor any other party, has ever filed any action or received compensation in the form of an award or settlement for

¹ Because this Order contains a reasoned explanation for the action taken in this case, it must be made publicly accessible and will be posted on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website, and/or at <https://www.govinfo.gov/app/collection/uscourts/national/cofc>, in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002. 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2018) (Federal Management and Promotion of Electronic Government Services). **This means the Order will be available to anyone with access to the internet.** In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), Petitioner has 14 days to identify and move to redact medical or other information, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy. If, upon review, I agree that the identified material fits within this definition, I will redact such material from public access.

² National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755. Hereinafter, for ease of citation, all section references to the Vaccine Act will be to the pertinent subparagraph of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa (2012).

Petitioner's vaccine-related injury. Petition at 1, 3. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

On June 13, 2023, Respondent filed his Rule 4(c) report in which he concedes that Petitioner is entitled to compensation in this case. Respondent's Rule 4(c) Report at 1. Specifically, it is Respondent's position that "[P]etitioner has satisfied the criteria set forth in the Vaccine Injury Table ('Table') and the Qualifications and Aids to Interpretation ('QAI') Therefore, [P]etitioner is entitled to a presumption of vaccine causation. *Id.* at 4 (citation omitted). Respondent further agrees that "[P]etitioner timely filed her case, that she received the flu vaccine in the United States, and that she satisfies the statutory severity requirement by suffering the residual effects or complications of her injury for more than six months after vaccine administration." *Id.*

In view of Respondent's position and the evidence of record, I find that Petitioner is entitled to compensation.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/Brian H. Corcoran

Brian H. Corcoran
Chief Special Master